

Page 3, beginning at line 26, please replace the paragraph with the following text:

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Fig. 1 shows the effect as obtained with the structure according to the invention. The diameter of a wheel of a vehicle to be tested with the roller testing stand can, for instance, vary between the diameter as indicated with d_1 and d_2 respectively; to support a wheel with diameter d_1 the adjustable roller should have the position as indicated with the circle $22d_1$ while, for a correct support of a wheel with diameter d_2 , this roller should have the position as indicated with $22d_2$. This is obtained by tilting the pivoting arms 28a, 28b around the axis of the motor 20 so that the axis of roller 22 describes part of a circle arc 23 with radius R, until the correct position is obtained, and then the arms are fixed in this position. The adjusting and fixing mechanism necessary thereto is for clarity purposes not shown in the drawing.

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-7 are currently pending in the application.

In the outstanding Office Action, the drawings were objected to. Claims 1 and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,718,036 to Marten et al. (hereafter Marten). Claims 2-6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Marten in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,450,748 to Evans et al. (Hereafter Evans). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections of the claims for the below-discussed reasons.

As stated above, the drawings were objected to in the Office Action. Specifically, the Office Action asserts that reference characters 28a and 28b have been used to designate both the supporting frames and the pivot arms. In response, Applicants have amended the

specification to state that the pivot arms are indicated by reference characters 28a and 28b, and that the supporting frame includes these pivot arms 28a and 28b. In particular, the specification has been amended to recite “*supporting pivoting arms 28a, 28b* of a supporting frame.” The Office Action further asserts that the “tilting” arms 22a and 22b, as described in the specification, are not shown in the drawings. In response, Applicants have amended the specification to state that the pivot arms 28a and 28b can be tilted. In particular, the specification has been amended to state “tilting the *pivoting arms 28a, 28b*.” The Office Action also asserts that the circle arc 23, as described in the specification, is not shown in the drawings. In response, as shown in the concurrently filed Letter Requesting Approval of Drawing Changes, Applicants have amended Figure 1 in red to include reference character 23. Thus, for at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully request that the objections to the drawings be withdrawn.

The present invention is directed to a roller pair for a roller testing stand, and a roller testing stand using such a roller pair. Independent Claim 1 recites that the roller pair includes two commonly driven rollers. The distance of one of the rollers with respect to the other roller is adjustable. An axis of the movable roller can be displaced over a circle arc of which the center coincides with the axis of a driving gear or wheel. Examples of advantages of such a roller pair are discussed throughout the specification.

Marten shows an apparatus for testing a traction power output of a vehicle. As shown in Figure 1, for example, of Marten, a chassis dynamometer 2 includes two rollers 4 and 6, each for driving engagement with a traction wheel 7 of the vehicle. The roller 4 is coupled with an eddy current brake 8 that is mounted to pivot about the axis of rotation of the roller 4 against the bias of springs 12. By this arrangement, any braking torque developed by the brake 8 pivots the brake 8 about the axis of rotation of the roller 4 until the torque is balanced

by the springs 12. An arm 14, which has a forked outer end 16 within which a perforated disc 18 is rotatably mounted, is fixedly mounted on the brake 8. The edge of the perforated disc 18 is in driving contact with another perforated disc 20 that is fixedly mounted with the roller 6. Thus, the speed of rotation of the perforated disc 18 depends on the speed of rotation of the roller 6 and on the displacement of the perforated disc 18 from the center of rotation of the perforated disc 20 due to the braking torque. By this arrangement, the traction power output of the vehicle can be measured.¹

The Office Action asserts that the two rollers 4 and 6 of Marten are analogous to the two rollers recited in independent Claim 1. Even if Applicants agreed with this assertion, which Applicants do not, Marten still does not show the claimed features of a distance of one of the rollers with respect to the other roller being adjustable, as recited in independent Claim 1. Specifically, Marten does not show a distance of the roller 4, for example, with respect to the roller 6 being adjustable. Rather, as discussed above, at most Marten shows a perforated disc 18 that moves relative to the roller 6. However, independent Claim 1 recites “the distance of one” of the rollers “with respect to the other” of the rollers “being adjustable.” Thus, for at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of independent Claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) be withdrawn and the independent claim allowed.

Regarding the rejection of dependent Claims 2-6, the Office Action relies on Evans in an attempt to remedy the deficiencies of Marten. Evans describes a common chassis dynamometer and relates mainly to an arrangement of rollers in combination with a drive motor (17), a brake (33), and other various rollers. Both the drive motor (17) and the brake (33) are essentially “single ended.” There is only one outgoing shaft. Further, of all the

¹ From Column 2, line 60 to Column 3, line 45, of Marten.

rollers, the bearings are non-adjustably supported in the common chassis: no roller is adjustable in its position. There are also no tilting arms between any of the rollers and the motor housing. Rather, the only similarities between Evans and the invention as recited in Claims 2-6 include that there is one (and not two) endless transmission element between a roller and a driving rear. However the rollers of Evans are not adjustable. Thus, for at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of dependent Claims 2-6 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn and the dependent claims allowed.

Further, notwithstanding the above discussion, dependent Claims 2-7 depend from independent Claim 1, and are therefore also allowable for at least the same reasons as the independent claim. Thus, for at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully request that the rejections of dependent Claims 2-7 under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102(b) and 103(a) be withdrawn and the dependent claims allowed.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application, and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal Allowance. A Notice of Allowance for Claims 1-7 is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance, he or she is encouraged to contact the undersigned representative at the below listed telephone number.



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Respectfully submitted,

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. J. Maier', written over the printed name.

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IN THE SPECIFICATION

The specification has been amended as follows:

Page 3, beginning at line 18, the paragraph has been replaced with the following text:

A second roller 22 is supported with its shaft ends 24a, 24b in bearing housings 26a, 26b which are fixed to the ends of [carrying] supporting pivoting arms 28a, 28b of a supporting frame [28a, 28b] which are interconnected via a cross-member 30. At the motor side the [pivot] supporting arms 28a, 28b are, via bushes 31a, 31b, supported in bearings 32a, 32b, coaxially with the motor shaft end 18a, 18b. The second shaft end 18b supports the pulley 34 which drives, via an endless belt 36, the pulley 38 on the shaft of the, adjustable, roller 22.

Page 3, beginning at line 26, the paragraph has been replaced with the following text:

Fig. 1 shows the effect as obtained with the structure according to the invention. The diameter of a wheel of a vehicle to be tested with the roller testing stand can, for instance, vary between the diameter as indicated with d_1 and d_2 respectively; to support a wheel with diameter d_1 the adjustable roller should have the position as indicated with the circle 22 d_1 while, for a correct support of a wheel with diameter d_2 , this roller should have the position as indicated with 22 d_2 . This is obtained by tilting the pivoting arms [22a, 22b] 28a, 28b around the axis of the motor 20 so that the axis of roller 22 describes part of a circle arc 23 with

radius R , until the correct position is obtained, and then the arms are fixed in this position.

The adjusting and fixing mechanism necessary thereto is for clarity purposes not shown in the drawing.